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Butler Co. Ohio

# Indian Creek Pioneer Burial Ground And Church



On Indian Creek Road, In Reily Township  
Butler County, Ohio

**Restoration and Dedication**

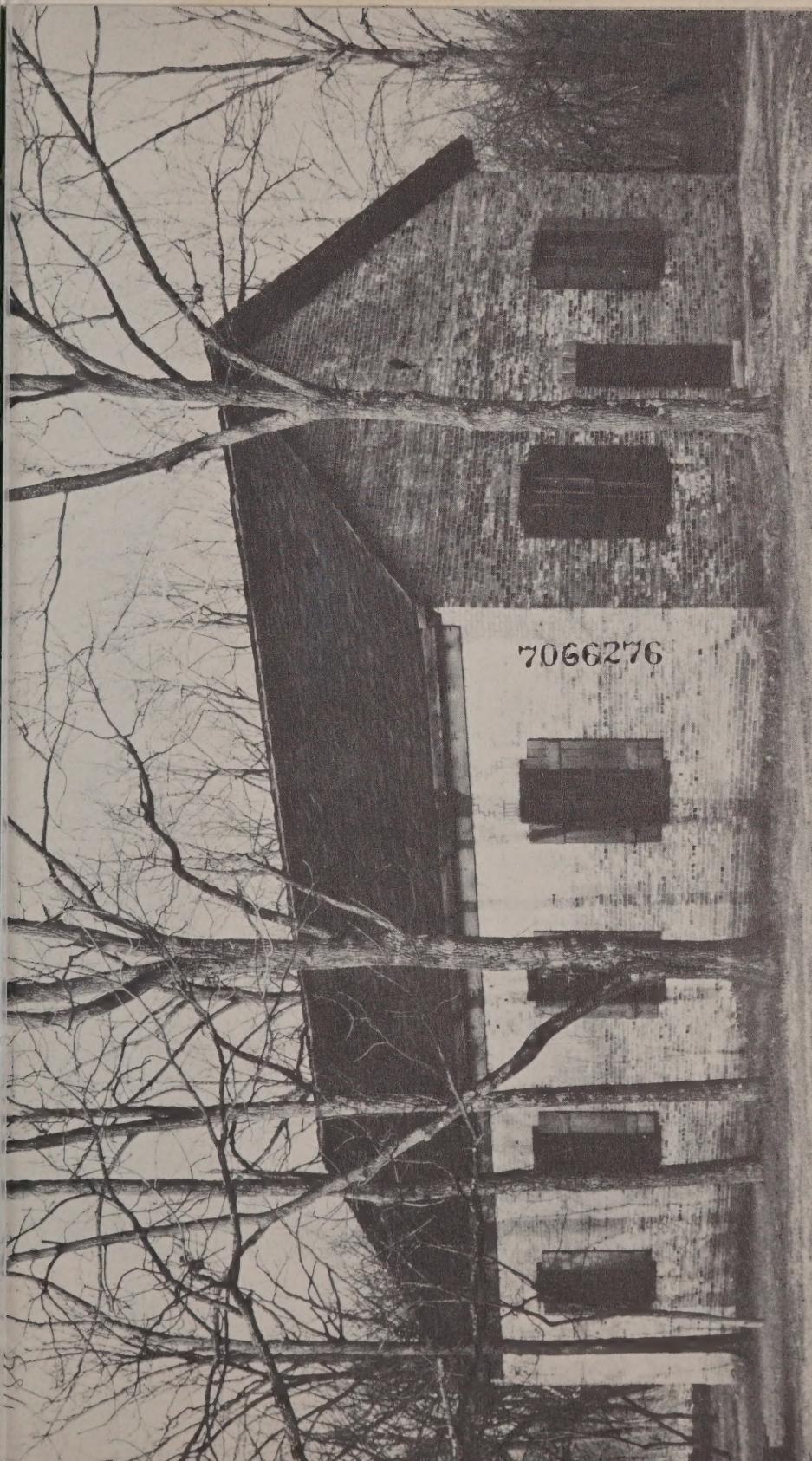
**September 8, 1963**  
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*Indian Creek Church as it appeared in April, 1963*

-photo by Lloyd Frueh



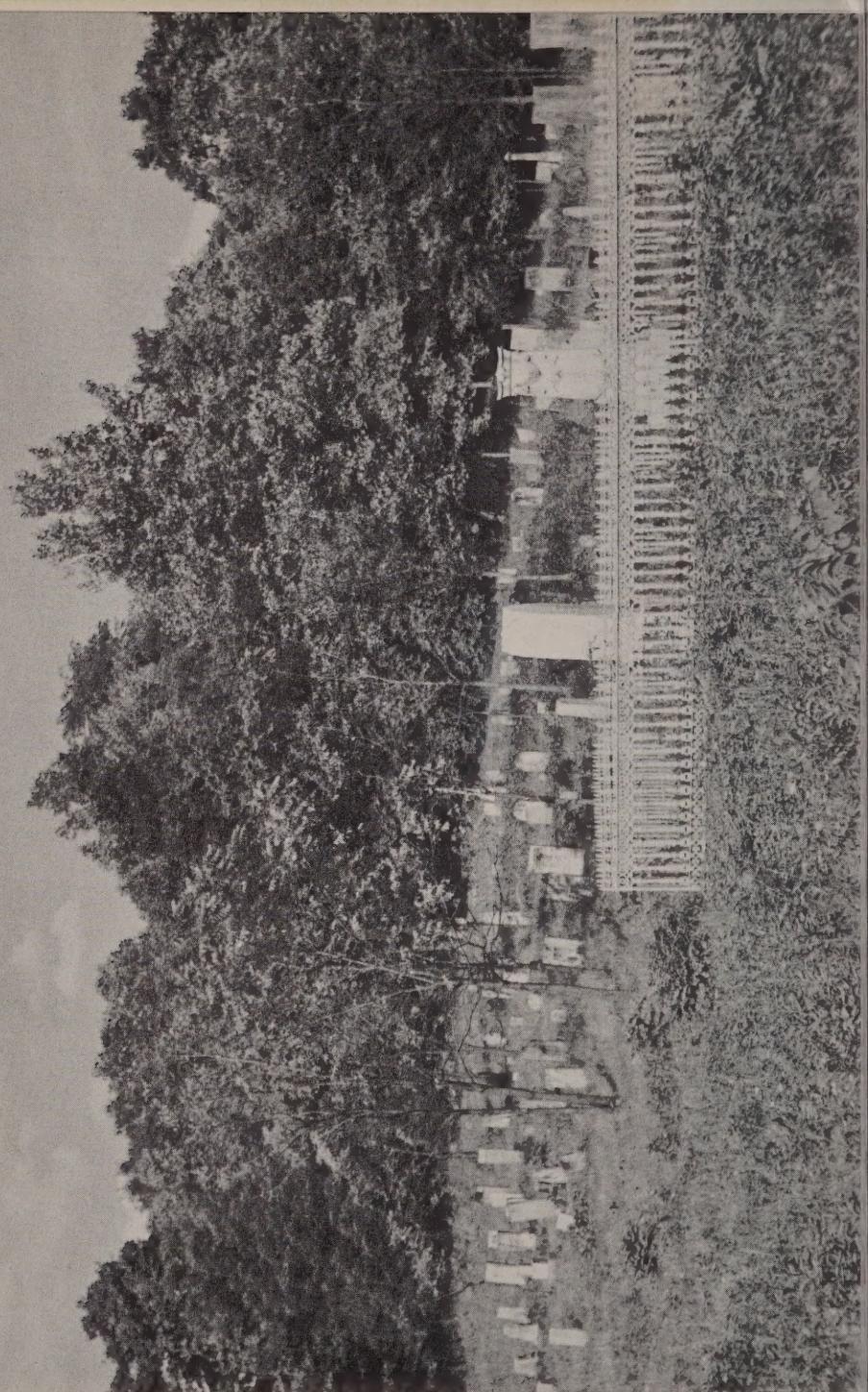


Photo of burial ground adjoining Indian Creek Church. Taken about 1951 by Herbert A. Webb. Elaborate monument in the Burch family lot was erected by John A. J. Burch in memory of his father, William Burch. The wrought iron fence in fluers-de-lis design was erected by a grandson, William Burch, about 1900.

## Park Board Acquires Church And Cemetery

By Mrs. Robert D. Gillespie  
 Butler County Historical Society  
 Committee for Reily Township

*(Editor's Note—The Butler County Park Board has recently acquired as an historic site and park area the old Indian Creek Baptist Church and burial ground, on Indian Creek Rd., northwest of Reily. The church was built about 1830—or 130 years ago—and is one of the oldest existing church buildings in Ohio. The burial ground, dating back to 1812, represents the first land purchased in Butler County for a cemetery. The acquisition of this property represents more than nine years of consideration by all parties concerned, and historically is one of the most important public transactions ever completed in this area. The author of this article, Mrs. Gillespie, is a resident of Reily Township, a member of the County Historical Society, and has spent many hours developing the facts for this writing.)*

Any pleasant day, folks interested in local history may follow beautiful, winding Indian Creek northwest from Reily or southwest from Oxford, and visit the Indian Creek Regular Baptist Church and cemetery. There for the length of their visit, they may be transported back to the early days of the Northwest Territory.

Sleeping quietly under the trees on the sunny hillside are many of the earlier settlers of the Indian Creek region before the area became townships.

An old brick church dreams in the sun of days when many of those sleeping beside it worshiped within its walls.

These early settlers were Scotch, Irish, English, and Welsh; they came to the Indian Creek region from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, some coming after earlier residence in Kentucky. The first faint early traces they followed on their scouting parties on the high ground go back in history to the mound builders.

There was a connection between the people who occupied the fortified hills of the Scioto, Miami and Whitewater valleys. Scouts found a fortified hill 90

feet above Four Mile Creek in what is now Oxford Township and remnants of a fortification along the banks of Indian Creek in Reily Township. Scouts followed a later well-marked trail from the Great Miami to the White Water valley through this region. An early squatter erected a cabin on a good Indian trail by a good spring and a salt lick. This trail led from Ft. Hamilton to the Miami Indian country along the Wabash.

### Scouts Become Settlers

Some members of these scouting parties became settlers and members of Indian Creek Church and sleep in this cemetery. Among them were Thomas Boone, Abraham Lee, Abraham Jones, Gideon Wilkinson, John Morris and Valentine Chase. Their farms were acquired by Congressional grant or purchase through the Cincinnati land office before Hamilton and Brookville offices were opened. They brought their families up the Indian Creek valley after crossing the good ford on the Miami River near Dunlap Station, the most western outpost of the Symmes purchase. (The first road from the Ohio river to Oxford, the Lawrenceburg Post road went through this Indian Creek area.)

Their cabins were built on high ground away from swamps in forests so dense that one had to look straight upwards to glimpse the sun. They settled on both sides of the newly surveyed Ohio-Indiana line. Enough people had arrived on the Ohio side by 1807 that a committee petitioned the Butler County Commissioners in December to have a new township out of part of the vast western area named St. Clair. The new township was named Reily for John Reily, Revolutionary soldier, first Butler County clerk of courts, one of the framers of the first constitution of the State of Ohio and one of the first trustees of Miami University.

The new settlers met in cabins for their first church services. The Regular Baptists as early as 1809 had invited Elder Wm. Tyner of Brookville, Indiana to preach to them on Saturdays and

Sundays. He had come into the White Water valley in 1800 and by 1805 had a church started on Little Cedar Creek south of Brookville. This became the mother church of the White Water Association. On July 28, 1810 he moderated the meeting at which was organized the Indian Creek Church in the cabin of John Morris (great grandfather of Mrs. Ellis Abbott of Reily).

From Elder Tyner's own account of his trip to Reily, we learn that he rode through the forest, following the White Water River to the mouth of Big Cedar Creek and followed that creek until he arrived just west of his destination on Indian Creek. Stopping to let his horse drink in Big Cedar Creek he saw an Indian standing motionless on the opposite bank with drawn bow, the arrow pointed at his heart. Unarmed, as there were so few Indians in this area in 1810, the Elder stared at the Indian, trying not to show his fright but he said it seemed an eternity before the Indian lowered his bow and melted into the forest.

#### *Baptists Organize*

Arriving at the cabin of John Morris, he found many members of the Baptist faith. From the original minute books we have the following account written in ink by Abraham Lee, surveyor, charter member and first writing clerk: "The Regular Baptist Church of Christ on Indian Creek was constituted on the 28th of July, 1810 by Elders Joshua Palmore, Moses Frazy and William Tyner, number of members, 22."

"The arm (of the Cedar Creek Little Cedar Church) being now constituted it is open for the reception of members. Church agreed to meet the Friday before the second Saturday in August next.

"Brothers A. Lee and S. Crooks appointed to write a letter to the White-water Association and present it on day above mentioned. The Sabbath day following received by the right hand of fellowship Mary Jones, Abigail Wilkinson, Margaret Partlow and Mary Gates."\*

*In Regular Baptist custom, this right hand of fellowship was given by the preacher and the congregation as the members came out of the water after being immersed in running water. There is evidence of baptisms in November and other winter months.*

\*See page seven.



*Elder Abraham Thurston and wife. Elder Thurston was a grandson of Abraham Lee and was last of many ministers ordained in Indian Creek Church. He was ordained in 1858.*

#### *Vote To Buy Land*

They voted to buy three acres of ground from Valentine Chase on September 22, 1810 and built their first log church on the south plot in 1811. In 1812 Abraham Lee recorded "Will not receive members into the church who hold the principle of slavery supported by the Word of God." Their membership grew very rapidly, soon reaching 100. In 1813 they built a small cabin in which to keep their saddles dry.

The early Baptist ministers were farmers who worked hard on their farms all week and devoted Saturdays and Sundays to the work of the church, almost entirely without reward. They organized the Christian forces for law and order in the new community. Among the early ministers were Benjamin Martin, William Martin, Wilson Thompson and Elder William Tyner.

In 1816 they built a platform for an Association meeting. Huge crowds attended these three-day meetings that were great social occasions on the frontier. One report was made of three sermons at one time: one in the shade of a big oak tree, one in the church, and one at the foot of the hill. Abraham Lee reported forty members added one month in 1828, six baptisms on Sunday, twelve on Monday and three on Tuesday.

### *Plan Brick Church*

When the church had 150 members, Elder Wilson Thompson (whose autobiography and hymnals are in the library of the Butler County Museum) rode over from Lebanon on February 28, 1829 to moderate a meeting when the church voted to build a meeting house of brick. In early 1830 they voted to tax the members to finish paying for the present structure which measured 38x56 feet.

Located so near the Indiana line, this church had connections with both the Whitewater and the Miami Associations.

### *Ordain Farmers*

In all their meetings any member of high moral standing and a gift for speaking might be given permission "to exercise his gift."

After several years of speaking at gatherings and if found worthy of preaching what the Baptists called sound doctrine, he was ordained.

When Jos. Flint was ordained in 1832 after a year's preparation there were present to assist the local church Stephen Gard, Elk Creek who moderated, J. Lutes and J. Kelley from Elk Creek, Jos. Billings from New Hope, J. Davis and L. Garver from Hamilton-Rossville, Joab Stout from Big Cedar, Wm. Tyner and John Quick from Little Cedar, Benona Goble and John Thurston from Bethlehem. Joseph Flint became active in affairs of both associations, an agent for and contributor to the *Signs of the Times* magazine edited by an association in Vernon, N.Y. Bound volumes of this magazine, once the property of Linus Clawson, are now in the Butler County Museum.

On May 25, 1833 brothers Joseph Flint, Abraham Lee, John Burk and John Brady were sent to help the Hamilton-Rossville church with the ordination of Brother Robinson. In the years 1845 and 1846, the church was served by two ministers, Elder Billings on the first and third Sundays, and Elder Robinson on the second and fourth Sundays.

There arose minor doctrinal differences. "How shall a minority proceed when grieved?" The breach widened. In 1860 this minority withdrew and built a frame church in the village of Reilly. This is now a residence. By 1870 the majority faction had dwindled to five members. On Saturday, April 26, 1879 the church



*William and Mollie Hannah were among the last five members of Indian Creek Church before it was closed in 1879. They are the great grandparents of Charles, Curtis H., Elva and Bess Hannah.*

was dissolved and letters were issued to P.T. Jones and wife Lydia, Wm. Hannah and wife Molly, and Margaret Dawson.

### *Burial Ground Free*

A rough trail was hewn through the woods dividing the three acre plot into two parts, the south half for a church and the north for a cemetery. On this first land sold in Butler County for a cemetery, burial was free. The land was never plotted.

A committee was appointed to draw a map showing where graves were located so that strangers passing through would know where to bury their dead, mute testimony to the casualties among pioneers who were pushing past the settlements in Ohio to the lands further west. Their graves were often marked with shaped field stones at head and foot. The later footstones bear two initials of the name carved on the more elaborate headstones. Anyone could and did select a spot, mark it, and claim it for burial. Many are buried whose names are unknown. Many whose names are known have no marked graves.

### *Cedars Mark Graves*

*A poignant story is told of a woman who buried two little girls in Indian Creek Burial Ground. Lacking money for stones, she planted two cedar trees to mark the graves. The cedar trees are alive there today, high on the hill to the east.*

*With quiet tread I walked between the rows  
Of ancient slabs that lean like tired men.  
I paused to read the heart split chiseled words  
That time had half effaced from human ken.  
But much as moss and ivy did conspire  
With time those sacred epitaphs to hide,  
The artesans had carved the words too deep  
The words that spoke of honor, love and pride.*

—SAMUEL SHIERLOH

Other burials of interest are Thomas Boone, cousin of Daniel Boone, his wife, Susanna; a daughter, Levina Boone Bourne, a grandson, Thomas Boone Bourne. Boones Run east of the cemetery was so named for the residence of this family.

Thomas was a Revolutionary soldier from Pennsylvania, according to the records of Jane Knox Skinner in the Covington Collection at Miami University. Reily residents tell that Daniel Boone wintered there before he went west.

#### *Other Burials*

Nicholas Jones, veteran of the war of 1812, was drafted into the company of Capt. Joel Collins and transferred to a packhorse company that carried supplies from Butler County to Ft. Wayne, Ind.

*Isaac Brady, veteran of the Civil War, is buried high on the hill to the east near the twin Cedar trees.*

Elizabeth, first wife of Benjamin Crocker, is the mother of Bethenia Crocker who taught the first school for girls in Oxford, which later became Oxford College for Women.

Rebecca and Closs Thompson are parents of one of the most famous of the early Baptist preachers in Kentucky, Missouri and southern Ohio. His autobiography edited by his children is with the records of this Church in the Butler County Historical Museum.

*Joseph Brady, early settler, member of Indian Creek Church, was founder of a fine pioneer family.*

*Pliny and Rachel Barnum, buried here, have close relationship to P. T. Barnum, famous showman.*

*The names of Elijah and Daniel*

*Vanness appear in the church minutes in 1829. From this time the Vanness name became an active one in the history of the church and cemetery. For over 30 years Leroy Vanness, Oxford; Paul Vanness, Richmond, Ind., and Thomas Vanness, Hamilton, have been officers of the association.*

#### *The Years Between*

After the first history of the church was published in February, 1960, many friends of the church and burial ground produced additional facts. Mrs. Mable Riley Oyler furnished the original papers of incorporation of the Indian Creek Cemetery Association signed on April 30, 1880 by Milton Barnes, Secretary of State. Charter members were: Samuel Brady, Gideon Wilkinson, W. G. Everson, Elijah Vanness, Sr., A. B. Jones, N. Urmston, Walter Brady, Wm. Brady, Samuel Landon, J. J. Lee, T. H. Smith.

Interested neighbors held Sunday Schools from 1880-1900. One singing school with a winning reputation was reported 1888-1889 by Frank Coddington of Parlier, California who sang bass in it. Led by William Brooks, son of a Cincinnati publisher, it included Isaac Woodruff and his sisters and others. They appeared at Sunday School rallies from Millville, Ohio to Fairfield, Indiana.

Samuel King (grandfather of Paul King) reported in his diary that revival meetings were held there and Sunday evening church services when ministers could be obtained. Irving Brady just before his death spoke of the May meetings at Indian Creek Church.

In 1911 the centennial of the first log church building was held. There was an all-day meeting with a basket dinner at noon. (Continued on page ten)

# Reily Township Area Deeded To Park District



In ceremonies held Wednesday afternoon (June 8, 1960) in Reily Township, the Indian Creek Cemetery Association presented to the Butler County Park District a deed to three acres of church and burial grounds located on Indian Creek Rd., four miles northwest of Reily, for preservation of the first free burial grounds in the county and restoration of an historical brick church building constructed in 1829.

## A Fitting Memorial

Through the cooperation of generous people seeking to preserve and perpetuate the rich and interesting historical background of this county and this area, and with the assistance of interested public officials, an historic site has been added to the Butler County Park District.

At ceremonies Wednesday, the Board of Park Commissioners accepted this gift — a deed to three acres of church and burial grounds in Reily Township — from the Indian Creek Cemetery Association. On these acres are the first free burial grounds in Butler County, dating back to 1810, and the graves of veterans of five American Wars. There also is a church established in 1829 which will be restored for public use.

This is not, in the usual sense of the words, a park. There are no facilities for recreation. It is a memorial and most certainly a distinctly valuable addition to the Butler County Park District. By its graves and its church, and by the very beauty of the site, there must come to all who walk there a deeper appreciation of the hardships and privations, the determination and sacrifice of those who began the development of this Great Miami Valley. \*

And in this same train of thought, far too little public appreciation has been expressed to the Butler County Commissioners, to other officials, to the Butler County Historical Society and to all who have helped preserve these lessons and traditions and who help make them available now for younger generations and all generations to come. And in this work, too, the schools, parochial and public, have played an important part.

Shown in the above photograph are, left to right: Bruce W. Diehl, county park director; Thomas Vanness, Hamilton, treasurer of the Indian Creek Cemetery Association; Leroy Vanness, Oxford, president of the cemetery association; Paul Vanness, Richmond, Indiana, Secretary and G. E. (Gus) Condo, president of the Butler County Park Commission.

—from Hamilton Journal-News

Shown at the left is an editorial published in the Hamilton Journal-News on Thursday, June 9, 1960.

Other stories and comments on the restoration of Indian Creek Church and Burial Ground appeared in the Oxford Press and other area papers.

## FROM PAGE FOUR

\*From the original minute books in the vault of the rare book room in the Miami University library.

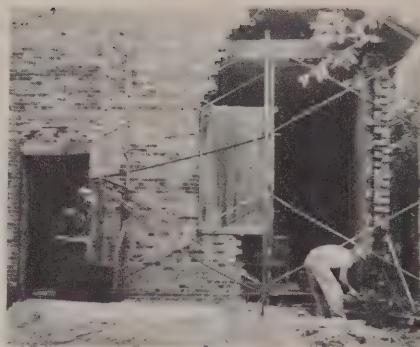
## County Park District Takes Over Maintenance

Early in 1960 the Indian Creek Church and Burial Grounds became the responsibility of the Butler County Park District, with the cooperation of the Butler County Historical Society and the Indian Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Association.

The first efforts were, naturally, directed to the immediate problem of structurally preserving the church building itself. To this end, Russell Barlion, Reily-Springfield Road, an expert craftsman in masonry work and a student of early American Building methods, was appointed Building Superintendent. Within a short period of time, the all-important and critical church corner was restored, the foundation repaired and the brickwork generally improved. Mr. Barlion not only supervised the effort of the Park District work crew, he also spent many Saturdays and odd hours in individual effort.

During the year, 1960, the Park District, began the maintenance job of mowing, the construction of the small parking lot and the restoration of broken and deteriorated grave markers. After considerable experimentation a very new product (epoxy plastic) was found to be the most efficient and durable bonding material for grave marker repair.

The initial efforts of the three participating groups proved most fruitful during the first year of combined effort. Our main purposes—to insure the perpetuation of this most significant historical site, the



*Here is photo of workers busy restoring deteriorated northwest wall.*

initial preservation of the church house, and the proper control of the grounds—had been accomplished. No part of this could have, or would have been possible, without the wholehearted cooperation of three distinctly varied groups and the unique ability of our volunteer "building superintendent."

The effort was, and is, a fine example of mutual effort, interest and initiative in which no agency or group could have accomplished the job without the others.

The Butler County Park District feels honored in being responsible for the future of the Pioneer Burial Grounds.

—By Bruce W. Diehl, *Park Director*

*Pictured here are Bruce W. Diehl, park director; R. D. Gillespie, farmer; Russell Barlion, brick mason. These three men planned and supervised the restoration of Indian Creek Church. Photo was taken by Bob White of the Oxford Press on May 27, 1962 on the day some 200 persons attended a singing school at the church. Mr. Diehl received the Butler County Historical Society citation as "Historian of the Year" in 1962 in recognition of his interest in preserving historical sites.*



## Progress Report!

### Restoration Program At Indian Creek Church



By MRS. GEORGE BENZING JR.

Trustee, Butler County

Historical Society

Hamilton Journal-News, Nov. 23, 1961

An epoch-making contribution was made recently in connection with the restoration of the Indian Creek Church and pioneer burial grounds, Indian Creek Road in Reily Township, when members of the Hamilton Area Unit Masonry, Inc., (know as Haum, Inc.) of Butler County constructed a brick post and walnut rail fence, as pictured above, in front of the grounds. Brick masons and assistants of the unit spent two Saturdays on this project, building 21 brick piers and the gateway entrance. Men who worked on this project are William B. Huxster, Elmer Laurer, Charles Hargett, Hubert Hulett, James Miller, John J. Fontaine, Reinhardt Wildi, of Fairfield, Russell Barlion, Reily Township and George Linardos.

Bruce W. Diehl, director of Butler County Park system and his assistants were on hand to help. Russell Barlion and Robert D. Gillespie, both of Reily Township, are restoration supervisors assisting the Park Director.

Materials used in this construction were contributed by Martin Lingler, Inc.;

Central Ready Mix Co., Oxford; Ricketsen Mineral Color Works, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the Southwestern Portland Cement Company, Fairborn, Ohio; and A. Benzing and Sons, Inc.

Lunch for the men the first Saturday was furnished by Leroy Vanness of Oxford and the second Saturday by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis R. Hannah, of Reily assisted by the committee of the Butler County Historical Society.

Restoration on the church building is progressing. George Hage of Hamilton contributed many hours of time and skill on the restoration of the 12 windows in the church. Fred Kolb Jr., Reily Township, has assisted with the carpenter work in fitting the windows. The Indian Creek Cemetery Association furnished a new fence for the other three sides of the grounds and now with the brick post and split walnut rail fence at the entrance, the appearance is as those who have seen it say—just beautiful.

The Hamilton Area Unit Masonry, Inc. (non-profit organization) published 3,500 leaflets depicting the church restoration as a tribute to the pioneer men and women who founded this church and preserved their faith for posterity.



*Photo by Bob White, Oxford Press*

**RESTORATION COMMITTEE**—Reading left to right Mrs. George Benzing, Jr.; Mrs. Paul King, Mrs. Robert D. Gillespie, Mrs. Russell Barlion, Mr. Paul King, Mrs. Curtis R. Hannah, Mrs. Morris G. Taylor.

Other Committee members busy on that rainy day when two hundred attended were Morris G. Taylor, Russell Barlion, R. D. Gillespie, Mrs. Herb Arent, E. L. McDaniel and cooperating members Bruce W. Diehl and Leroy Vanness.

### **Hold Singing School**

May 27, 1962 a singing school led by Robert Moore of Oxford, with Bernard Fuhr accompanying him on his portable organ was held in the Indian Creek Church. Mr. Virgil Davis, Franklin County Indiana, historian and teacher spoke on the early history of the Indian Creek Community.

### **These Serve In 1960**

1960 members of Indian Creek Cemetery Association: Leroy Vanness, President; Paul Vanness, Secretary; Thomas Vanness, Treasurer. Thomas Weidenbach, Paul D. Vanness. Curtis C. Hannah, Myron Vanness, Emery Smith.

### **The Years Between**

*(Continued from page six)*

In 1934 the Indian Creek Historical Society was formed for the preservation of The Indian Creek Baptist Church. It flourished for three years under the leadership of Clifford B. Moore, President; Mabel Fichter (Mrs. Wm.), Secretary; Alice Borger, Treasurer; and Bessie Braman, Historian. The membership grew to one hundred. Dr. Wm. E. Smith, Oxford, Ohio and Mrs. Roscoe O'Byrne of Brookville, Indiana spoke at their meetings.



*This photo shows how sturdily the church was built ... with hand-hewn beams and wooden pegs.*

# COUNTRY AUCTION

## Thurs. Night, OCT. 18, '62

6:30 P.M.

Located at Firehouse in REILY, OHIO. All articles are donated and proceeds for restoration of Indian Creek Church and Burial Ground. A partial listing of this interesting auction:

Thirty old school desks; platform rocker and ladder back chair; large GE ironer; storm windows and screens; bronze cash register for quarts, pints and half pints; wicker baby stroller; bread mixer; 22 in. bronze statue; coverlette; old mase and cane; old glass; lamps; china; jars, mirrors; irons; candle sticks; pictures and frames; silver baking dish; vasoline compote; hand painted china; china clock; cooking utensils; rugs; crockery; granite coffee pot; jug collection; buttons; incubator; lawn mower; victrola and records; maple couch; morris chair; stainless sink; 2 volumes of Howe's History of Ohio; McGuffey reader; 1838 dictionary; old paintings of Indian Creek church.

Many other items not listed will be included in this auction.

Note: A SUPPER WILL BE SERVED STARTING AT 5:00 P.M.

Country Store and Used Clothing Booths.

Not responsible in case of accidents.

Terms: Cash

SALE SPONSORED BY RESTORATION COMMITTEE,

BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HAROLD VAUGHN AND HERB DEMAREE, Auctioneers  
ELMER DITTMAN, Clerk

The same committees who worked throughout this restoration each sent out ten cards to friends and neighbors asking for articles old or new for this country auction. Over 600 items were collected.

In connection with the sale held in the Reily Fire House, an attractive corner was used for the country store where home baked goods, vegetables, honey, candy, etc., were sold. In another corner a rummage sale was held. Before and during the sale the women of Reily Township donated and served an old-fashioned community supper to 400 guests. Menu consisted of barbecue, ham, potato salad, baked beans, pie and coffee. An estimated 1,000 persons attended this most successful event. The weather with a full moon was ideal. Services for the auction sale were donated by Harold Vaughn, auctioneer, assisted by Herb Demaree and Elmer Dittman, clerk. Total receipts amounted to \$1,089. Excellent cooperation and hard work from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. of nearly 60 persons made the sale day a success.

## The Church Building As Restored In 1963

The church building measuring 38x56 feet was built by the pioneer members with bricks made of Indian Creek clay burned on the site and laid in walls three bricks in thickness. The foundation was native stone.

Three walls are of running bond with five, six or seven rows of bricks laid length wise and every fifth, sixth or seventh row laid endwise. The western side was laid in Flemish bond with every other brick in every row a tie brick. This proves that the pioneers planned this long wall for the front of the church

as most of the early brick homes in this region were so built.

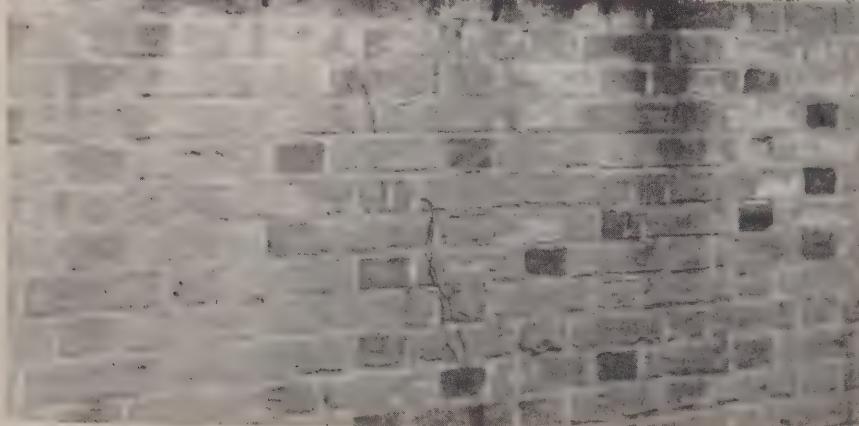
The timbers in the self-supporting roof were hand hewn with ax and broad axe. They were put together with mortise and tenon joints pinned with wooden pins. This frame, trussed like a bridge, supports a roof that is straight and true after 134 years. The original roof was of shales, hand cut, with a tool known as a froe, from hard wood found on the site. The present roof was put on in 1961 duplicating the original as nearly as possible. It is of western red cedar shales. The original floor boards remaining were made with whipsaws and were fastened to log joists with hand-made iron nails.

Two thirds of the original plaster remains. Applied directly to the brick walls it was made of creek sand, hair and powdered limestone made by burning rocks to powder over log fires. Mr. Bass Barlion, retired plasterer, repaired the plastered walls in the summer of 1962 joining the new with the old in a most skillful manner. This was his gift to the restoration.

The painting done under the supervision of Leroy Vanness copied the colors of the original paint of about 1856.

Twenty replicas of the original pews were made by Chet Ferris of Oxford. They are gifts of descendants as memorials and of friends and organizations interested in preserving the past. The pulpit is a gift of Chet Ferris.

*Photo by Charles Koch shows his son, Roger Koch at the window. Picture was taken to illustrate Flemish bond construction of wall.*



## Headstones In Indian Creek Burial Ground As Copied In May, 1962

The following list of headstones in Indian Creek Church Burial Ground was made by Mrs. Herb Arent and Mrs. J. R. Gardner of the John Reily Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Hamilton, Ohio during May, 1962.

It is with "honor, love and pride," that we publish this list. We honor the known and unknown, the brave pioneers, the young wives, the children and the old. Many rest here for whom no readable headstones can be found. While the inscriptions on some of the stones are legible, other graves are marked only by field stones. Some of the foot stones carry the initials of the person whose name appears on the headstone.

Some were buried in the winters when it was so cold that fires had to be built on the ground in order to thaw it sufficiently to allow a grave to be dug. The bodies of a few, like that of Samuel Lee, had to be carried over the hills because flooding waters in Indian Creek made approaching the cemetery from the creek side road impossible.

—Mrs. Robert D. Gillespie

<b>Adams, Heman</b>	
died Nov. 21, 1848	
age 87 yr, 5 mo, 2 da	
<b>Barnum, Pliny</b>	
died Aug. 29, 1848	
age 63 yr, 5 mo, 3 da	
<b>Barnum, Rachel</b>	
wife of Pliny Barnum	
died Dec. 20, 1870	
age 78 yr, 3 mo, 1 da	
<b>Boone, Susanna</b>	
wife of Thomas Boone	
born April 12, 1756	
died Feb. 6, 1830	
<b>Boone, Thomas</b>	
born Aug. 21, 1759	
died Feb. 6, 1831	
<b>Bourne, Levina</b>	
wife of Nathan Bourne	
died April 30, 1835	
age 38 yr, 9 mo, 3 da	
<b>Bourne, Thomas B.</b>	
son of Nathan and Levina Bourne	
died Mar. 12, 1855	
age 25 yr, 3 mo, 27 da	
<b>Brady, Isaac</b>	
Civil War soldier	
died Feb. 23, 1862	
age 22 yr, 3 mo, 5 da	
<b>Brady, Joseph<sup>1</sup></b>	
died Dec. 17, 1860	
age 80 yr, 4 mo, 7 da	
<b>Brady, Martha A.</b>	
wife of Samuel Brady	
born April 11, 1825	
died Oct. 18, 1867	
age 42 yr, 6 mo, 7 da	
<b>Brady, Samuel</b>	
born Sept. 13, 1812	
died Feb. 1, 1901	
<b>Brady, Sarah</b>	
wife of Joseph Brady	
died Aug. 10, 1847	
age 62 yr, 10 mo, 21 da	
<b>Brady, Susan</b>	
wife of Samuel Brady	
born Dec. 1, 1816	
died June 21, 1843	
age 26 yr, 6 mo, 20 da	
<b>Brady, Walter</b>	
son of S. and S. Brady	
same stone as Susan	
died Mar. 2, 1844	
age 9 mo, 10 da	
<b>Brooking, Senie B.</b>	
1866-1902	
<b>Burch, Eleanor J.</b>	
wife of John A. J. Burch	
born 1836	
died 1907	
<b>Burch, Elizabeth</b>	
dau. Wm. and Sarah Burch	
born May 14, 1822	
died July 31, 1824	
<b>Burch, John A. J.</b>	
born 1820	
died 1897	
<b>Burch, Sarah</b>	
born 1785	
died 1867	
<b>Burch, William</b>	
died May 16, 1857	
age 68 yr, 1 mo	
<b>Campbell, Lydia</b>	
died Feb. 9, 1864	
age 48 yr	
<b>Chase, Valentine, Sen</b>	
died Aug. 20, 1815	
age 51 yr, 3 mo, 7 da	
<b>Clem, Peter</b>	
died April 4, 1859	
age 65 yr, 7 da	
<b>Covington, Eliza</b>	
wife of Joseph Covington	
died Dec. 26, 1853	
age 35 yr, 1 mo, 25 da	

**Dalzell, Rachel F.**  
 born Dec. 2, 1845  
 died Nov. 20, 1888  
 age 41 yr, 11 mo, 18 da

**Davis, Mary**  
 dau. of Elizabeth and Jesse Davis  
 died June 13, 1851  
 age 27 yr, 4 mo, 24 da

**Dungan, Josiah**  
 drowned in Indian Creek  
 died June, 1821  
 age 21 yr, 6 mo

**Dungan**  
 wife of John Dungan  
 died May 23, 1826  
 age 51 yr, 4 mo, 11 da

**Fullerton, Joseph**  
 died Jan. 19, 1883  
 age 87 yr

**Gray, Priscilla**  
 wife of John H. Gray  
 died Jan. 31, 1842  
 age 25 yr, 5 mo, 28 da

**Hand, Mary Cole**  
 died Jan. 9, 1831  
 age 99 yr, 6 mo, 29 da

**Harper, Maria**  
 wife of J. S. Harper<sup>2</sup>  
 died Aug. 19, 1855  
 age 23 yr, 3 mo, 12 da

**Harris, Joshua**  
 died Aug. 23, 1831  
 age 24 yr

**Hazeltine**  
 son of W. S. and L. Hazeltine  
 died July 26, 1841  
 age 1 mo, 6 da

**Hixon, Andrew**  
 died Mar. 10, 1854  
 age 48 yr, 3 mo, 23 da

**Howard, Freddie L.**  
 infant son of J. B. and R. E. Howard  
 born and died April 5, 1889

**Jones, Abraham**  
 born May 20, 1783  
 died July 2, 1863

**Jones, Benjamin**  
 son of Abraham and Sarah Jones  
 died Sept. 15, 1822  
 age 19 yr, 4 mo, 1 da

**Jones, Mary**  
 dau. of Abraham and Sarah Jones  
 died Feb. 3, 1824  
 age 13 yr, 1 mo, 11 da

**Jones, Mary**  
 wife of Nicholas Jones  
 died Sept. 29, 1855  
 age 70 yr, 3 mo, 6 da

**Jones, Nathaniel**  
 son of Abraham and Sarah Jones  
 died April 6, 1826  
 age 3 mo, 28 da

**Jones, Nicholas**  
 died April 24, 1853  
 age 73 yr

**Jones, Phebe**  
 dau. of Abraham and Sarah Jones  
 died Oct. 22, 1835  
 age 6 mo

**Jones, Rebecca R.**  
 wife of Nathaniel Jones  
 died June 7, 1902  
 age 60 yr, 8 mo, 27 da

**Jones, Sarah**  
 wife of Abraham Jones  
 died Mar. 2, 1856  
 age 66 yr, 10 mo, 12 da

**Jones, Sarah**  
 dau. of Abraham and Sarah Jones  
 died Jan. 8, 1847  
 age 19 yr, 1 mo

**Knotts, Arnold**  
 died Feb. 2, 1872  
 age 100 yr

**Knotts, Phebe**  
 wife of Arnold Knotts  
 died June 11, 1883  
 age 69 yr, 1 mo, 1 da

**Knotts, Wm. H.**  
 son of A. and P. Knotts  
 died April 17, 1855

**Lee, Abraham**  
 died April 29, 1858

**Lee, Abraham Lincoln**  
 died Sept. 4, 1884  
 age 23 yr, 3 mo, 26 da

**Lee, Beersheba Ann<sup>3</sup>**  
 wife of Joseph Lee  
 died July 29, 1864  
 age 39 yr, 2 mo, 15 da

**Lee, Emery Sherman**  
 son of J. J. and B. Lee  
 died Sept. 10, 1882  
 age 19 yr, 3 mo, 2 da

**Lee, Eunice**  
 wife of Abraham Lee  
 died Feb. 25, 1861  
 age 78 yr, 10 mo, 17 da

**Lee, J. J.**  
 died April 24, 1900  
 age 77 yr, 1 mo, 11 da

**Lee, Luther**  
 son of M. S. and S. E. Lee  
 born April 6, 1890  
 died Jan. 16, 1891

**Lee, Samuel B.**  
died Feb. 8, 1885  
born March 23, 1847

**McNutt, Elizabeth**  
dau. of Abraham and Sarah Jones  
died Mar. 1, 1838  
age 24 yr, 1 mo, 18 da

**McNutt, Elizabeth**  
dau. of John and Elizabeth McNutt  
died July 24, 1838  
age 6 mo, 8 da

**Miller, Henry Augustus**  
son of Noah and Malinda Miller  
died Aug. 19, 1850  
age 10 mo, 19 da

**Miller**  
son of David and Joanna Miller  
born and died Jan. 30, 1846

**Miller, Wm. A.**  
son of David and Joanna Miller  
died April 2, 1837  
age 1 yr, 10 mo

**Miller, Wm.**  
son of David and Joanna Miller  
age 1 yr, 5 mo

**Misner**  
died Jan. 13, 1835  
age 30 yr, 3 mo, 6 da

**Morris, John**  
born Feb. 8, 1776  
died July 11, 1841

**Morris, Mary**  
wife of John Morris  
died July 3, 1861  
age 81 yr, 6 mo, 22 da

**Munson, Harriet A.**  
dau. of Philetus and Rebecca Munson  
born Dec. 1, 1816  
died Oct. 23, 1850  
age 24 yr, 1 mo, 10 da check

**Munson, Philetus**  
died Feb. 26, 1854  
age 63 yr, 1 mo, 17 da

**Munson, Rebecca**  
wife of Philetus Munson  
died Feb. 5, 1869  
age 76 yr, 11 da

**Munson, Stephen**  
son of Philetus and Rebecca Munson  
died Sept. 2, 1849  
age 19 yr, 10 mo, 2 da

**Pippen, Martha**  
dau. of Thos. and Sarah Pippen  
died Aug. 21, 1847  
age 9 yr, 7 da

**Proctor, John A. J.**  
son of William and M. J. Proctor  
died July 21, 1849  
age 2 yr, 7 mo, 14 da

**Riggs, Matthew**  
died Feb. 25, 1836  
age 62 yr

**Riggs, Matthew Jr.**  
died Mar. 2, 1839  
age 19 yr

**Riggs, Mary M.**  
died Mar. 14, 1865  
age 76 yr

**Samuels, Matilda**  
wife of John Samuels  
died Aug. 10, 1858  
age 36 yr, 9 mo, 6 da

**Shirk, Martha**  
dau. of Joseph and Mary Shirk  
died July, 1823

**Smith, Ellen**  
dau. of Amos G. and J. Smith  
died Sept. 26, 1838  
age 23 da

**Smith, Jane**  
dau. of John and Mary Morris  
wife of Amos G. Smith  
died July 17, 1856  
age 43 yr, 9 mo, 5 da

**Smith, Mary Emma**  
dau. of Amos and Jane Smith  
died Sept. 25, 1856  
age 16 yr, 2 mo, 23 da

**Smith, Nancy A.**  
dau. of Samuel A. and Martha Smith  
died Sept. 21, 1846  
age 17 yr, 11 mo, 14 da

**Staton, Martha**  
wife of Reuben Staton  
died Jan. 15, 1834  
age 60 yr

**Staton, Mary Ann**  
died Aug. 16, 1833  
age 17 yr

**Staton, Nancy**  
dau. of Reuben and Martha Staton  
died Dec. 22, 1851  
age 42 yr, 4 mo, 16 da

**Staton, Reuben**  
died March 14, 1818  
age 42 yr

**Thurston, Hannah**  
died July 23, 1840  
age 68 yr, 4 mo, 11 da

**Thurston, Samuel**  
died Mar. 23, 1823  
age 57 yr, 17 da

**Tucker, Cornelius F.**  
died July 17, 1858  
age 63 yr, 1 mo, 28 da

**Tucker, Ephraim**  
died Aug. 1, 1844  
age 74 yr, 2 mo, 6 da

**Urmston, Susannah E.**  
 wife of James Urmston  
 died Aug. 7, 1837  
 born Mar. 22, 1799

**Urmston, Jonathan**  
 died Aug. 24, 1840  
 age 50 yr, 6 mo

**Vanness, Abigail**  
 dau. of Elijah and Rebecca Vanness  
 died 1837  
 age 2 yr, 12 da

**Vanness, Abram**  
 son of E. and E. Vanness  
 died Oct. 16, 1855  
 age 16 da

**Vanness, Barbary**  
 born April 13, 1807  
 died Oct. 13, 1825

**Vanness, Charlie**  
 son of E. and E. Vanness  
 born July 29, 1859  
 died Nov. 8, 1862  
 age 3 yr, 3 mo, 9 da

**Vanness, Elisha**  
 son of D. and M. Vanness  
 born Sept. 18, 1855  
 died Aug. 12, 1856  
 age 10 mo, 27 da

**Vanness, Gideon W.**  
 son of D. and S. Vanness  
 born Aug. 13, 1833  
 died Aug. 14, 1834  
 age 1 mo, 29 da

**Vanness, Henry**  
 son of D. and M. Vanness  
 born Aug. 4, 1847  
 died Aug. 18, 1847  
 age 14 da

**Vanness, Joseph**  
 son of D. and S. Vanness  
 born Aug. 13, 1833  
 died Aug. 14, 1834  
 age 1 yr, 1 da

**Vanness, Joseph**  
 1825-1908

**Vanness, Mary E.**  
 wife of Joseph  
 1830-1863

**Vanness, Susannah<sup>4</sup>**  
 wife of D. Vanness  
 born April 5, 1809  
 died Feb. 20, 1841  
 age 31 yr, 10 mo, 15 da

**Vanness, Rebecca**  
 wife of Elijah Vanness  
 died July 1, 1841  
 age 38 yr, 9 mo, 17 da

**Vanness, William**  
 son of D. and M. Vanness  
 born Oct. 13, 1848  
 died Mar. 27, 1855  
 age 7 yr, 5 mo, 14 da

**Welliver, Huldah**  
 wife of Isaac Welliver  
 died Oct. 25, 1823  
 age 20 yr

**Wilkinson, Abigail**  
 wife of Gideon Wilkinson  
 died Dec. 30, 1842  
 age 64 yr, 11 mo, 23 da

**Wilkinson, Elisha**  
 son of Elisha and Rebecca Wilkinson  
 died Mar. 2, 1852  
 age 26 da

**Wilkinson, Gideon**  
 son of Elisha and Rebecca Wilkinson  
 died Feb. 8, 1842  
 age 10 mo, 21 da

**Wilkinson, Gideon**  
 died Jan. 26, 1842  
 age 70 yr, 1 da

**Wilkinson, Marcia A.**  
 dau. of Elisha and Rebecca Wilkinson  
 Wilkinson  
 died Mar. 19, 1843  
 age 3 mo, 17 da

**Wilkinson, Mary J.**  
 dau. of Gideon and Mary Wilkinson  
 died Mar. 9, 1845  
 age 1 mo, 11 da

**Wilkinson, Sarah E.**  
 dau. of Gideon and Mary Wilkinson  
 died Mar. 8, 1853  
 age 1 yr, 2 mo, 28 da

**Wing, David**  
 died Nov. 17, 1857  
 age 86 yr, 6 mo, 26 da

**Wing, Hannah R.**  
 dau. of Z. and Marcia Wing  
 died Aug. 19, 1850  
 age 9 mo, 1 da

**Wing, Marcy**  
 wife of David Wing  
 died April 17, 1844  
 age 75 yr

<sup>1</sup>stone made by W. W. Wallace of Oxford

<sup>2</sup>stone by Potter

<sup>3</sup>stone by Wellinghof

<sup>4</sup>monument by Wespiser Bros., Oxford, Ohio

## Headstones Listed In 1930, But Missing Now

The following list of headstones was recorded by Mrs. Jane Knox Skinner in 1930\*, but these stones are not now visible in the Indian Creek Burial Ground.

### Chase, John S.

son of Valentine and Elizabeth Chase  
died July 15, 1844

### Chase, Samuel B.

died Aug. 25, 1815  
age 8 mo

### Crocker, Elizabeth

wife of Benjamin Crocker  
died Aug. 25, 1825

### Harris, Lewis

son of Joshua and Rachel Harris  
died Oct. 19, 1813

### Harris, Marguerite

dau. of Joshua and Rachel Harris  
died Sept. 15, 1816  
age 1 yr

### Reed, Eunice S.

wife of Robert Reed  
died Aug. 25, 1832  
age 25 yr

### Wing, Lucy

wife of Silas Wing  
died Aug. 4, 1834

### May, L. A.

dau. of Jesse and Elizabeth  
died Jan. 13, 1851  
age 27 yr.

\*Mrs. Skinner's notebook containing this list may be seen in the Covington collection at the Miami University Library, Oxford, O.

## Thanks Due To Boones

In the great westward migrations the Boone family were among the first to hit the trail and were well started in the eighteenth century. Many of them moved through the Indian Creek area and had a part in shaping its history.

Loving and interested descendants of this family in the state of Washington, drawn together by their interest in their Boone ancestry and in tracing their lineage to their first ancestor in America, organized a Boone Family Association in 1953. The Association is not a commercial but a family undertaking. Their annual dues are the only income.

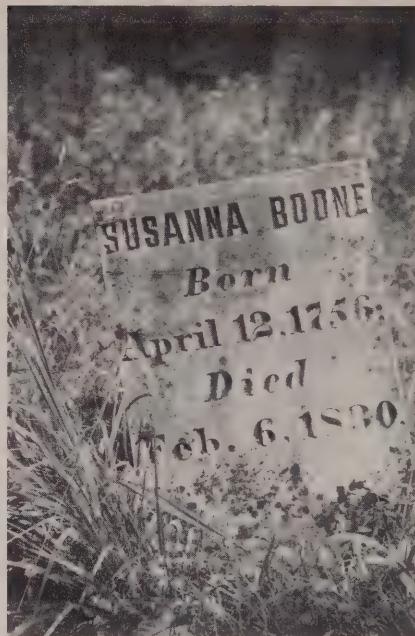
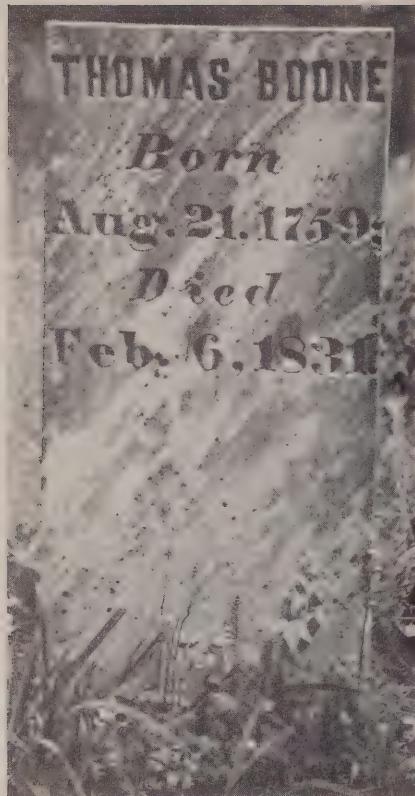
By 1956 they needed a means of communication and published the Boone SCOUT, a quarterly bulletin of four pages. The many inquiries after the SCOUT was started brought about the establishment of a research center in the Seattle Public Library. Quarterly meetings and an annual picnic in Tacoma Washington are a part of their program of activities\*.

This Boone Family Association, with

Mrs. J. H. Buchanan, Historian 905 Boylson Ave., Seattle, Washington, has members in most states in the Union. Their SCOUT has published regularly the work of the restoration of the Indian Creek Pioneer Burial Ground and Church. This year their annual picnic falls on July 28. That was the day in 1810 when the Indian Creek Church was organized in the cabin of John Morris. Thomas and Susanna Boone were charter members of this church and were present that Saturday.

\*This is the only research center in the United States devoted solely to the history, biography and genealogy of the Boones.

The Indian Creek restoration committee owes grateful tribute to the Boone Family Association of Seattle, Washington, its historian Mrs. J. H. Buchanan of Seattle and its Vice-President of Colton, Washington, Mrs. B. W. Davidson and others for their outstanding help and support of this Pioneer Restoration. Mrs. Davidson is a direct descendant of Thomas Boone through his sixth child, Brumfield Boone.



*Tombstones marking the last resting place of members of the Boone family.*

## *Oh, Pioneers!*

### *The Boone Family*

Buried in the Indian Creek Pioneer Burial Ground are four Boones. Their head and foot stones are in excellent condition. They are Thomas Boone (son of Joseph, Jr., cousin of Daniel), his wife Susanna Brumfield Boone, a daughter Levina Boone Bourne (widow of Nathan Bourne) and their son Thomas Boone Bourne.

Thomas Boone, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Berks County Pennsylvania in 1759. He married Susanna Brumfield in Berks County and came to Kentucky in 1785. (Another record gives their arrival as 1791. Often the men came and returned for their families). Their sixth child, Brumfield Boone, was born in the blockhouse in Bryants Station, Kentucky, November 6, 1791. They crossed to Ohio at the mouth of the Little Miami river in 1794, moving on to Cincinnati the same

year. Exact date of their arrival on Indian Creek is not known. Boones Run east of the church, a tributary of Indian Creek, was named for them so Boones were there early, probably squatters. Mr. William Fichter, of Reily, tells of a John Boone cabin at the mouth of Boones Run. Mrs. Jane Knox Skinner of Oxford and Mrs. Alta Harvey Heiser, historian, Hamilton, Ohio, tell of the presence of Daniel's younger brother, Squire and his sons Enoch and Jonathan. Daniel Boone moved west through Cincinnati in 1798 driving cattle and pack horses. Legend has it he wintered on Boones Run.

The year 1807 found Thomas Boone living on land at the source of this run that he had received by Congressional grant (the S.E. quarter of section 4, range 1, Reily township). An 1807 census report lists two white male inhabitants over twenty-one living in the cabin of Thomas Boone. The sixth child, Brumfield, lived near. He killed the largest panther ever killed in the area in 1815. After fighting in the Indian wars under General Gano, he married Marie Wood of

Butler County in 1817. Thomas and Brumfield each listed for taxes in 1820 two horses and three cows. This home quarter section was deeded to Brumfield in 1824.

Thomas and Susanna Boone's correct place in the Boone family has been established within the last ten years through the joint efforts of interested descendants, of the Boone Family Association of Seattle, Washington and of the independent research of Mrs. George Benzing, Jr. of the Butler County Historical Society. The Boones who settled in Berks County, Pennsylvania were Quakers from England. When Joseph Boone, Sr. (Thomas's grandfather) married out of the Quaker Church his wife and family were not included in the family records. Orphan's Court records of the minor children of Joseph, Jr. and his widow's name Elizabeth Warren Boone in Berks County, Pennsylvania and the two pictures of the tombstones complete the proof.

Of the nine children of Thomas and Susanna Brumfield Boone, Levina, the eighth child, is buried in the Pioneer Burial Ground. She married Nathan Bourne, a brother of Ezra L'Hommodieu Bourne and Elizabeth Bourne Crocker. After her early death in 1835 Nathan married Mrs. Sarah Staton Ross. They had one son Ezra and founded one branch of the Bourne family in the Oxford area. Mr. Robert B. Bourne is a great, great grand son of this pioneer, Nathan Bourne.

Levina (tombstone spelling used) and Nathan's son, Thomas Boone Bourne, was killed at age 23 as he road home from the Indian Creek Church. Legend has it there was no storm so the neighbors called it "an act of God."

Brumfield Boone left the home farm at the source of Boone's run and is buried in Greensburg, Indiana. Their descendants are found in Texas, Indiana, Illinois, California, Washington, Ohio to name the ones most frequently mentioned.

Miss Norine Means of Richmond, Indiana tells delightful stories about Susanna Brumfield Boone. When she inherited some money from the eastern estate of her brother, Jesse, the estate took twenty years to settle. "Roads were impassable," it was written. "Maybe next year I can get the power of attorney."



*Abraham Jones 1783-1863 with his wife, Sarah, are buried in the Pioneer Burial Ground. Among descendants are the McCormick-Arthur Dare family of Reily Township; the VanAusdall-Myers family of the Oxford-Bath area; the Philip Tenley Jones family of Indiana including Harry LeRoy Jones of Washington, D.C., Mrs. Alan Millett and son of Columbus, Ohio and the Dwight D. Jones family of Fairfield, Ohio.*

#### *The Jones Family*

Abraham Jones, the founder of a large and influential family, was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania May 20, 1783. He was the fifth child and first son of Philip and Elizabeth (Dowden) Jones of Welsh descent. In 1800 he came with them to Ohio, floating down the Ohio river on a flat boat. He lived with his parents on their farm on Mt. Lookout where the Cincinnati observatory now stands. Legend has it that he scouted in 1808 for a farm in the new land opening to the northward camping one night with Abraham Lee and Ezra Bourne at a good, walled spring. Choosing adjoining farms on the Indiana side in Franklin County, Indiana, they walked back to Cincinnati to enter their land in the nearest land office.

Abraham Jones married Sarah Flack in 1810. She was an Irish girl, daughter of Robert Flack, an early pioneer of Ohio and an early settler in Indiana. They settled in their newly-built log cabin and reared their family. Being a man of strong physique, industrious, enterprising, he hired out to clear land in Ohio in order to meet his payments on his own land.

He was successful and was able to give each of his children who reached maturity a tract of land some of which is still owned by his descendants. He was a man of strict integrity and honor, standing firmly for what he believed to be right. He was an early member of the Indian Creek Baptist church and served as Treasurer when the present brick church was built. He attended Association meetings representing this church. When the Association met at this church, he often entertained as many as one hundred guests for the three-day meetings.

Of their family, one son Philip Tenley, was equally active in the affairs of the Indian Creek Church. Born in 1820 he attended a subscription log school and received further education in Liberty, Indiana and studied civil engineering. (Mrs. Ida Moss tells of the crowds they entertained at Association meeting time. Straw ticks were filled with fresh straw for the many guests.) In 1857 he became writing clerk of this church and signed the letters of the last five members.

#### *The Lee Family*

Abraham Lee was born in Maryland in 1778 and was brought to Bryants Station, Kentucky by his parents when he was four years old. He studied surveying under Israel Ludlow and served in the Indian Wars under General William Henry Harrison.

About 1800 he crossed the Ohio river at North Bend with a little colony and settled at the mouth of Dry Fork near the present town of New Haven, Ohio. He married Eunice Atherton, a member of the colony and built a cabin for his wife and himself on a tributary of Dry Fork which has always been called Lee's Creek as they were the first settlers. In 1807 he entered land in Bath township, Franklin County, Indiana and moved his family there in 1808. A spring house was built over the walled spring where he camped with Abraham Jones and Ezra Bourne, according to Mr. Harvey McClure.

Abraham and Eunice were charter members of the Indian Creek Church. He served as its writing clerk for many years and as surveyor and justice of peace until Franklin County became more fully organized. On his way to church in 1858

he was thrown from his horse and died five days later at the home of James Harter.

#### *The Wilkinson Family*

Gideon and Abigail (Warren) Wilkinson came to the newly surveyed Reily township in 1809 from Essex county, New Jersey. They brought with them four Vanness boys Ephraim, Elijah, Daniel and Scott Gideon's stepsons and one girl, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Abigail's stepdaughter.

This family spent the first summer in a clearing near Venice which had been left by an earlier settler who had been killed by the Indians. They lived in a lean-to of boughs and raised their garden from seeds they had brought with them. Gideon went on to the land he had entered in Reily Township, made a clearing, built a cabin and returned to Venice in the autumn for his family and their food. They reared this family and four children of their own, Gideon, Elijah, Peggy and Abraham, and usually had some other family sharing their home.

In 1830 they built the brick house standing today and owned by the Kappes family.

The Wilkinson, Vanness, DeCamp, Weaver, Hannah are among the families who trace their lineage to Abigail and Gideon. Abigail was the daughter of a Dr. Warren who had served in the Revolution. He gave his daughter lessons in medicine and in the use of medicinal herbs. She rode the trails of Indian Creek on a fiery black horse, delivering babies, doctoring the sick and as one loving descendant says "probably bossing everybody in sight." Had she lived in the twentieth century, she probably would have campaigned for votes for women, for their right to own property and for equal pay for equal work. As it was an earlier day, she arose in a meeting of the Indian Creek Church of which she was a charter member and cited her near neighbor Thomas Boone for "attending a frolic." Abraham Lee reported the fellowship of the church was withheld from them both, but they were later reinstated. She was punished for speaking out in meeting because women did not do that in Regular Baptist circles.

### *The Brady Family*

Joseph Brady (1780-1860) spent most of his life in Butler County. His parents Johne (spelled with an e) and his wife Mary came from Ireland to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania to Butler County, Ohio and resided in the Indian Creek area. Joseph married Sarah Shipman and they united with the Indian Creek Church. Joseph was admitted "by experience" \*in 1828 (a soul stirring examination by the church leaders). Of their ten children, John and William were baptized in March, 1829. John was "liberated to exercise his gifts" in 1831 and preached in the Indian Creek and surrounding Baptist churches. William was a farmer, carpenter, builder of school-houses and township trustee. William's descendants are helping restore the church.

William Brady (brother of Joseph) came to Indiana in 1818. He had three sons. One, John Patton, became a minister in the Indian Creek Church. The second, Samuel, is buried with three members of his family in the Indian Creek Cemetery. In the home of Samuel's daughter, Susan Brady Caldwell, in Reily was found the diary of William's most brilliant son, Joseph. He kept it during the years 1844 through 1848 while he was a student at Miami University. It is in the rare book room at Miami University library and is used widely by historians. From the young Miami University he went on weekends to meetings at surrounding churches from Big Cedar Grove, Indiana to Franklin, Ohio including baptisms and Association meetings at Indian Creek Church.

\*Quotations from original minute books of Indian Creek Church.

### *The John Morris Family*

The Indian Creek Church used the cabin of John Morris on the opposite bank of Indian Creek from the Baptist Church for its organization meeting in 1810. Mention is made of the use of it one winter when it was too cold to meet in the church. The farm on which the cabin was located belongs in 1963 to Stanley Craig and is in section 17 range 1, Reily Township, Butler County, Ohio. There were two male whites listed in the



*James Abbott*

James Abbott, 1518 Kenny Rd., Apt. 14, Columbus, Ohio great great great grandson of John and Mary Morris, brilliant graduate fellow at Ohio State University, welcomes information about this family.

1807 census as living in this cabin. With his wife Mary Morris, John (1776-1841) is buried in the Pioneer Burial Ground.

John Morris came to Ohio from Virginia in 1799. His son, John B. Morris, born 1820, built and lived in a house of native stone, further away from the flooding waters of Indian Creek than the log cabin.

### *The Valentine Chase Family*

Valentine Chase Sr. purchased the southeast quarter of section 5 range 1 Reily Township, Butler County, Ohio in 1810 for \$400 from Abraham Chase. Abraham Chase had received this land by government patent signed by Thomas Jefferson in 1807. He lived in Mill Creek Township, Hamilton County, Ohio and owned a lot of land in the Indian Creek area. He sold two other quarters of section 5 to Isaac Chase and Thomas Chase.

Valentine sold the Indian Creek Regular Baptist Church three acres for \$9 in 1810. He was buried in the Indian Creek Pioneer Burial Ground in 1815. The Valentine Chase, who attended Miami University, and was a lawyer in Hamilton, was probably the elder Valentine's son as Valentine's stone is marked Valentine Chase, sen.

## These Donors Made Church Restoration Possible

Mrs. Edith Abbott  
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and Trust Co. of Hamilton  
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Ricketsen Mineral Color Works  
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Harold Vaughn Auctioneers

## These Helped Purchase New Pews

- 1—The Indian Creek Cemetery Association 1879-1960 by Leroy Vanness, Paul Vanness, Thomas Vanness, Paul D. Vanness, Myron R. Vanness, Curtis C. Hannah, Emery Smith, Thomas Weidenbach.
- 2—The Sam Hannah family in memory of William and Mollie Hannah by Curtis R., Charles H., Elva Gerwe, Bess Braman.
- 3—Max and Eunice Ziliox in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Harry H. Smith.
- 4—Bertha Memel Ritz in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Memel and Mr. Frederick Ritz.
- 5—Mr. and Mrs. Herschel H. Wilkinson in memory of the Wilkinson family.
- 6—The Morris G. Taylor Family.
- 7—The Pythian Sisters and The Knights of Pythias, Oxford, Ohio.
- 8—The First National Bank and Trust Company of Hamilton, Ohio.
- 9—Oxford Lodge F. and A.M. 67.
- 10—Mr. and Mrs. Guy Compton, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vanness, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Vanness, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Colyer in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vanness.
- 11—Alpha Bishop, Verla McCormick, Lottie Dare, Kenneth Dare, Norma Jean Clawson, Carol Jean, Richard Arthur, Barbara Clawson—descendants of Sarah Miller McCormick in memory of Abraham Jones.  
Miller McCormick in memory of Abraham Jones.
- 12—William Murstein—Bnai Israel Congregation.
- 13—The descendants of Joseph Brady (1780-1860) John W. Brady, Irving O. Brady, Mrs. A. J. Brady, Jane Brady, Mary Brady Brandenburg, Malcolm Brady, Robert C. Brady, Anson H. Brady, Leslie S. Brady, Mrs. Don A. Earnhart (Bernice Brady), Bryce Dare, Mrs. Guy Scholl, Mrs. Thomas R. Schumacker.
- 14—Mr. Virgil M. and Miss Myrna M. Schwarm in memory of Edward Schwarm.
- 15—Mr. Virgil M. and Miss Myrna M. Schwarm in memory of Valentine and Margaret (Ogle) Chase.
- 16—Mrs. R. C. Roberts in memory of Daniel Vanness; Mrs. Nople Jenkins in memory of C. T. Jenkins; Mrs. Vadna Cole in memory of her father, Benjamin F. Sturgill Mrs. Helen DeArmond, Mrs. Avis W. Cullen, Mrs. Alvin Jones in memory of Abraham Lee, Mr. Bert Coffey in memory of Lucy Vanness.
- 17—Mr. and Mrs. Earl H. Thompson in memory of Michael A. Thompson.
- 18—Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Bourne in memory of Levina Boone Bourne.
- 19—First Citizens Bank, Oxford, Ohio.

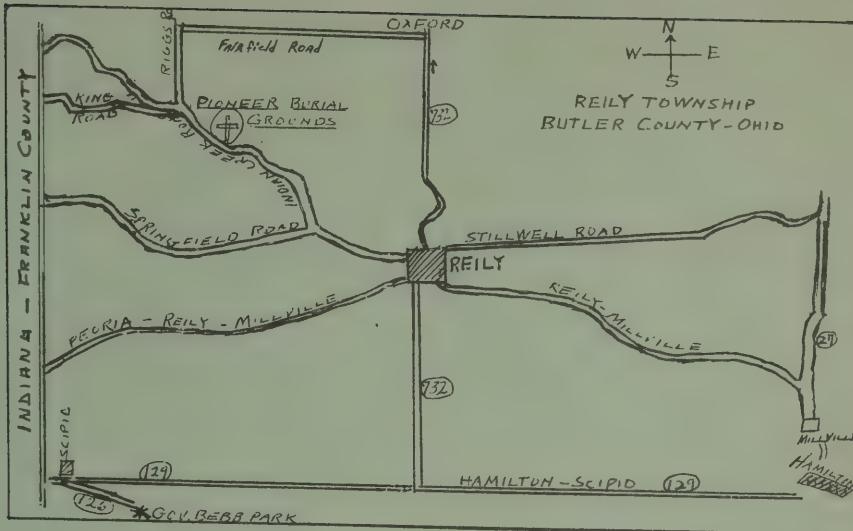
## Thanks Are Given . . .

This account of the restoration and the research on the history of the Indian Creek Church and its members was prepared by Mrs. Robert D. Gillespie assisted by Mrs. George Benzing, Jr. Grateful acknowledgement of appreciation goes to Mrs. Avis W. Cullen of Cullen Printing Co., an active member of the Oxford Museum Association, for her able assistance with the printing of this booklet.

Mr. Robert Butler, associate professor of fine arts at Miami University, executed the terra cotta plaque mounted on the east wall of the church. Representing an open book it reads, "This Pioneer Baptist Church founded 1810—built 1829. Presented by The Indian Creek Cemetery Association to The Butler County Park District 1960. Restored by The Butler County Historical Society through the generous gifts of members and friends. Dedicated to the pioneers and their faith in God 1963."

Thanks also are due those who were Park Commissioners in 1960: Gilbert E. Condo, Hamilton; Ernest Hively, Oxford; Wm. K. Robinson, Middletown.

The cover design is by Crossan H. Curry, instructor in art at Miami University.



## These Organizations Helped . . .

Butler County Park District	Boone Family Association, Seattle, Wash.
Butler County Historical Society	Hoosier-Buckeye Club
Butler County Commissioners	M. Louisa Chitwood Club
Butler County Budget Commission	Helping Hand Society of Walker Church
Butler County Engineer	
Indian Creek Cemetery Association	
Oxford Museum Association	
Franklin County Historical Society (Ind.)	
Reily Township Trustees	
Reily Township Fire Department	
Reily Township Farm Bureau	
Reily Grange	
Reily Township Farm Bureau	
Advisory Council No. 1	
John Reily Chapter of the D.A.R.	
Hamilton Area Unit Masonry, Inc.	
	<b>Press, Radio Assist</b>
	Hamilton Journal-News
	Oxford Press
	Cincinnati Enquirer
	Cincinnati Post-Times Star
	Fairfield Echo
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	Radio Station WMOH
	Radio Station WPFB
	Brookville Democrat
	Brookville American

*Lists of donors in this booklet include only those who made contributions prior to press date, July 22, 1963.*

# Dedication Ceremony

The Indian Creek Pioneer Burial Ground and Church are dedicated as a memorial to the pioneers of Butler County, to their work in settling the Northwest Territory and to their faith in God.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1963

2:30 P.M.

BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	... The Butler County Park District
MASTER OF CEREMONIES	... Mr. Morris G. Taylor <i>Trustee, The Butler County Historical Society</i>
INVOCATION	... The Rev. W. W. Ridenour, Minister, Reily Presbyterian Church
INTRODUCTIONS	... Restoration Committee, Butler County Historical Society
	Mrs. George Benzing, Jr., Mr. E. L. McDaniel, Mrs. Herb Arent, Mr. and Mrs. Morris G. Taylor <i>Reily Township Representatives</i>
	Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. Paul King, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis R. Hannah, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Barlion <i>(Mr. Russell Barlion, Restoration Supervisor)</i>
	Officers <i>The Indian Creek Cemetery Association</i>
	Mr. Leroy Vanness, Mr. Thomas Vanness, Mr. Paul Vanness <i>The Butler County Park Board</i>
Mr. M. David Urmston, Mr. Gilbert E. Condo, Mr. William K. Robinson; Mr. Bruce W. Diehl, <i>Director</i> ; Mr. Ernest Hively (former member)	<i>The Butler County Welfare Department</i>
	Mr. Warren G. Harding, <i>Director</i>
	<i>The Butler County Commissioners</i>
Mr. Ross H. Snyder, Mr. William R. Stitsinger, Mr. Arthur Reiff	<i>The Reily Township Trustees</i>
	Mr. Leigh Bittner, Mr. Ned Brosier, Mr. John T. Withrow <i>The Butler County Historical Society</i>
	Mr. James R. Line, <i>President</i>
	<i>The Franklin County Historical Society</i>
	Mr. Edgar Zellner, <i>President</i>
	<i>The Oxford Museum Association</i>
	Mr. James D. Lecky, Jr., <i>President</i>
GREETINGS	Mr. V. W. Flickinger, <i>Chief of Ohio Division of Parks,</i> <i>Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio</i>
	Judge Harry F. Walsh, <i>Judge of Butler County Probate Court</i>
	Mr. Gilbert E. Condo, <i>Butler County Park Board</i>
	Mr. Ross H. Snyder, <i>President, Butler County Commissioners</i>
	Mr. James Abbott, <i>Descendant of Pioneers, Columbus, Ohio</i>
Mrs. J. H. Buchanan, <i>Historian, Boone Family Association, Seattle, Wash.</i>	
Mr. G. Ura Grover, <i>Curator, Farm and Home Museum, Oxford</i>	
PRESENTATION OF PARK BOARD MARKERS	Mr. Bruce W. Diehl, <i>Director</i>
UNVEILING	Shuler Arent, Stephen Millett
ACCEPTANCE	Mr. M. David Urmston, <i>President, Butler County Park Board</i>
PRESENTATION OF CHURCH PLAQUE	Mr. Morris G. Taylor
UNVEILING	Misses Judy and Wendy Diehl
ACCEPTANCE	Mr. James R. Line
DEDICATION ADDRESS	Mr. Harry LeRoy Jones, <i>Director of Commission</i> <i>on International Rules of Judicial Procedure, Washington, D.C.</i>
STORIES OF PIONEER DAYS	
INDIAN CREEK COUNTRY IN 1810	Mr. Virgil Davis, Brookville, Ind.
THE PIONEER MINISTER	Mrs. A. F. Thomas, Indianapolis, Ind.
SOME IRISH PIONEERS	Mr. Leslie Brady, Washington, D.C.
A PIONEER WOMAN	Mrs. James Braman, Springfield, Ohio
PRESENTATIONS	Mrs. R. D. Gillespie
ACCEPTANCE	Mrs. Howard Shaeffer, <i>Curator, Butler County Museum</i>
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE	Rev. Wilbur E. Goist, <i>Chairman, Hamilton Area Council of Churches</i>
BENEDICTION	Dr. Bernie Smith, <i>Minister, The Fellowship Chapel</i>
REFRESHMENTS	<i>At the church by the Butler County Historical Society</i> <i>and Reily Township friends</i>
Escort from Hamilton to the Pioneer Burial Ground by the Hamilton City Police	
	and the Butler County Sheriff's Department











APR 81

N. MANCHESTER,  
INDIANA 46962

